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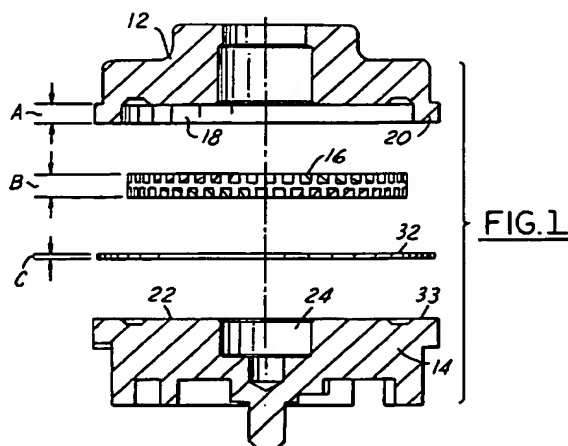
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(54) Methods of manufacturing automotive fuel pumps with set clearance for the pumping chamber

(57) The turbine assembly (10) of a fuel pump includes a pair of housings (12,14) having an impeller (16) disposed between the housings (12,14) with a minimum clearance. In a first form, there is provided a spacer (32) between the housings (12,14) which can be crushed between a pair of press platens such that the combined depth of the spacer (32) and recess (18) in one of the housings (12,14) receiving the impeller (16) equals the depth of the impeller (B) and the minimum clearance. In another form, the housings (12,14) may be precisely located and laser-welded one to the other to provide the minimum clearance between the impeller (16) and housings (12,14). In a third form, an annular spacer (32) is disposed between the flat faces of the opposed housings and crushed to a predetermined depth (C) such that the spacer depth equals the depth of the impeller (B) and the minimum clearance.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 97 11 9630

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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A	* column 1, line 24 - column 5, line 23 * ---	2,12	
Y	DE 40 32 602 C (FLENDER AG) 25 July 1991 * column 1, line 40 - column 2, line 9; claim 1; figures 1,2 *	1,11	
A	US 4 451 213 A (TAKEI TOSHIHIRO ET AL) 29 May 1984 * column 3, line 25 - line 49; figure 1 * * column 5, line 34 - column 6, line 17 * ---	1,11	
A	EP 0 457 490 A (CONCENTRIC PUMPS LTD) 21 November 1991 * abstract *	1,11	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 013, no. 143 (M-811), 7 April 1989 & JP 63 306293 A (ASMO CO LTD;OTHERS: 01), 14 December 1988 * abstract *	3-5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
E	US 5 711 276 A (FRANK KURT) 27 January 1998 * column 2, line 36 - column 4, line 6; figures 1-3 *	3	F04D F02M
A	US 5 549 446 A (GASTON ROBERT D ET AL) 27 August 1996 * claim 1; figure 5 *	3	
A	DE 44 28 254 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 15 February 1996 * column 2, line 32 - column 3, line 3; figure 2 *	3	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 March 1999	Examiner Ingelbrecht, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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